

Claims

1. A seed tape (1) including successively arranged germinating units (1a, 1b, 1c), and which further includes at least one carrier strip (3) as well as at least one
5 auxiliary layer (5) of biodegradable, flexible, non-woven or film-like material arranged on said carrier strip, whereby said auxiliary layer (5) is locally interrupted a short distance along the seed tape (1), and whereby each germinating unit (1a, 1b, 1c) includes a mixture of granulated carrier, at least one granulated additive and an adjuvant in addition to one or more seeds (7), said mixture plus the seed(s) being
10 kept together to form at least one core portion (8) in the germinating unit, as well as whereby said seed tape can be cut into separate germinating units prior to the irrigation and/or the bedding out, the core portion (8) made of said mixture including locally adhered fibres (18) of one or more thermoplastic materials which form a coherent, open network (8a) for keeping the granules (6a) of the mixture together, **characterised**
15 **in** that the fibres of one or more thermoplastic materials which form the network (18a) are bicomponent fibres, and that the seed or seeds (7) is/are placed in an incision (10) in the core portion (8), said incision (10) preferably being of a depth (d) of 25 to 50%, especially 33 to 40%, of the thickness (t) of said core portion (8).
- 20 2. A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, **characterised in**, that the outer component (18a) of each bicomponent fibre is made of polylactide (derived from lactic acid) (PLA) having a relatively low melting point, whereas the inner component of said fibre is made of polylactide (derived from lactic acid) (PLA) having a relatively high melting point.
- 25 3. A seed tape as claimed in claim 1, **characterised in**, that the incision (10) forms an angle (γ) of 40 to 65°, such as 45 to 55 °, with the longitudinal axis (A) of the seed tape.
- 30 4. A seed tape as claimed in one or more of the claims 1 to 3, **characterised in**, that the incision (10) is substantially Z-shaped.

4. A seed tape as claimed in one or more of the claims 1 to 3, **characterised in**, that the incision (10) is substantially Z-shaped.

5. A seed tape as claimed in one or more of the claims 1 to 4, **characterised in**, that the carrier strip (3) and/or the auxiliary layer (5) are made of a thermoplastic material, such as polypropylene or polylactide (derived from lactic acid) (PLA), said material preferably being of a weight of 15 to 30 g/m², especially 18 to 22 g/m², in particular 20 g/m².

6. A seed tape as claimed in one or more of the claims 1 to 5, **characterised in**, that the bicomponent fibres (18) of polylactide (derived from lactic acid) (PLA) form 4 to 9, especially 7 to 8% by weight of the mixture, whereas a superab-

sorbing polymer (SAP) forms 1 to 7% by weight, especially 2.5% by weight of said mixture, and the rest is for instance vermiculite or wooden dust.

7. A seed tape as claimed in one or more of the claims 1 to 6, **characterised**
5 **in**, that the bicomponent fibres (18) of the core portion and optionally also the carrier, the additive and the adjuvant, if any, have been placed on the carrier strip (3) by means of air.

8. A seed tape as claimed in one or more of the claims 1 to 7, **characterised**
10 **in**, that the seed(s) (7) or the granules of the mixture has/have been placed on the carrier strip (3) or in the core portion (8) by said seed(s) or granules being magnetized through a coating and thereby being attracted to the carrier strip (3) or the core portion (8) by means of small lumps or stripes of permanent-magnet-powder, such as strontium-barium-ferrite powder or titanium dioxide and barium ferrite powder, ar-
15 ranged on said carrier strip or on said core portion.

9. A seed tape as claimed in claim 8, **characterised in**, that the coating used on the seed(s) (7) or the granules include starch, such as paste, or polymers as well as magnetic powder in form of iron powder, for instance of a grain size of 17 to 23
20 μm , especially 20 μm , plus possible insecticides, fungicides or other adjuvants.

10. A seed tape as claimed in one or more of the claims 1 to 8, **characterised in**, that the carrier has been microencapsulated before it is placed in the core portion (8).

5 11. A seed tape as claimed in one or more of the claims 1 to 10, in which the carrier strip (3) is made of paper, a second carrier strip not shown is made of PLA, and an auxiliary layer (5) is made of paper or PLA, **characterised in** that the auxiliary layer (5) is secured to the PLA carrier strip by means of a pressure-sensitive or heat-sensitive glue, which has been applied onto the auxiliary layer in advance.

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12. A seed tape as claimed in one or more of the claims 1 to 11, **characterised in** that in said incision (10) in which one or more seed(s) (7) is/are placed, said seed(s) is/are retained by means of glue or magnetic particles.